LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Associated Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into the Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026

October 2026

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 49

12.00 pm, Thursday 27 August 2026
Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs Zio moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 48 of 17 August 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that, on behalf of the Committee, the Chair would write to the Chief Minister and Leader of Government Business about the issues the Committee has identified regarding the standard of Explanatory Statements accompanying Bills.

3. BILL REFERRALS

Consideration of proposed Bill Inquiry Plan

Justine Davis moved and Dheran Young seconded that:

> The submission due date be changed from Monday 7 September to Friday 11 September 2026.

Question put and negatived.

The Committee agreed to invite departmental representatives to appear before it at public briefings on each of the Bills from 8.00 am to 11.00 am on Monday 31 August 2026.

4. NEXT MEETING

Public Briefings: 8.00 am – 11.00 am, Monday 31 August 2026

Meeting closed at 12.22 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 50

8.00 am, Monday 31 August 2026
Litchfield Room

Present:	Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay
Apologies:	Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Substitution:	Mr Andrew McKay MLA, Member for Goyder, for Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Member for Wanguri
Secretariat:	Julia Knight, Committee Secretary Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer

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1. BILL REFERRALS – PUBLIC BRIEFINGS

The Committee heard from the following witnesses:

Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026
Jennifer Harlock: Executive Director Planning, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Sally Graetz: Director Lands Planning, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Mark Meldrum: Executive Director Land Services, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Dawna Turner: Director Land Services Reform, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

The witnesses withdrew.

Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe-Air) Bill 2026
Tess Cole-Adams: Executive Director, Environmental Regulation Division, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Sarah Gibbs: Director Legal Services, Environmental Regulation Division, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Julia Schult: Director Environmental Regulation, Environmental Regulation Division, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Solomon Gaturu: Director Regulatory Strategy and Maturity, Environmental Regulation Division, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

The witnesses withdrew.

Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026
Gemma Lake: Chief Executive Officer, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
Fotis Papdakis: Chief Operating Officer, Department of Logistics and Infrastructure

The witnesses withdrew.

National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026
Zoe McManus: Executive Director, Sustainable Energy Development, Department of Mining and Energy

Chris Wicks: Director Energy Reform, Sustainable Energy Development, Department of Mining and Energy

The witnesses withdrew.

2. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 2.00 pm, Thursday 17 September 2026

Meeting closed at 10.50 am.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 51

2.00 pm, Thursday 17 September 2026
Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Apologies: Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Substitution Mr Matthew Kerle MLA, Member for Blain, for Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Member for Drysdale

Secretariat: Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 49 of 27 August 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 50 of 31 August 2026 be confirmed

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe Air) Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mr Kerle seconded that:

> The Committee authorise publication of submission Nos. 1-9, 11 and 12, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved and Mrs Carlson seconded that:

> The Committee authorise publication of submission Nos 1-5, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026

Mr Kerle moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Committee authorise publication of submission Nos 1-10, redacting personal information such as signatures, personal addresses and phone numbers prior to publication.

Question put and passed.

3. BILL REFERRALS: CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS/EVIDENCE

Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026

Mrs Carlson moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

The Chair's draft report cover the issues raised in the consideration of submissions/evidence as discussed during the meeting.

Question put and passed.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe Air) Bill 2026, the Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026 and the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 to its next meeting.

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 2.00 pm, Tuesday 22 September 2026

Meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 52

2.00 pm, Tuesday 22 September 2026
Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Apologies: Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly

Secretariat: Candice Maclean, Executive Director Parliamentary Support
Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Georgia Eagleton, Senior Research Officer
Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Carlson moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 51 of 17 September 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

3. BILL REFERRALS: CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS/EVIDENCE

Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe Air) Bill 2026

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> The proposed amendment to section 126B(2) to omit the word 'may' and insert the word 'must' not be agreed to.
>
> 3 for 1 against.

Question put and passed. Justine Davis requested that her dissent be noted.

Mrs Carlson moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> Clause 4 of the Bill be amended to provide a mechanism for specified persons or classes of persons to seek review regarding an environmental monitoring scheme, including whether a person should be required to contribute to costs and the calculation of the amount required to be contributed.
>
> 3 for 1 against.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> Proposed section 126B(2)(e) be amended to provide that the Regulations may empower the Minister to specify, by *Gazette* notice, the persons or classes of persons to whom the contribution requirements apply.
>
> 3 for 1 against .

Question put and passed. Justine Davis requested that her dissent be noted.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> Proposed section 126B(2) be amended to provide that the Regulations must provide for the manner and form of publishing monitoring data relating to the environmental monitoring scheme, noting that the word 'must' be replaced by the word 'may'.

Question put and passed.

Justine Davis moved that:

> The word 'must' in the aforementioned resolution be retained.

Motion not supported.

Justine Davis moved that:

> Given the importance of the Bill and the evidence and advice received, the Committee recommend that it not be passed in its current form and be sent back to the Department for further consideration.

Motion not supported.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> The Chair's draft report cover the issues raised in the consideration of submissions/evidence and include the proposed amendments as discussed during the meeting.

Question put and passed.

Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026

Justine Davis moved that:

> Similar to the South Australian and Victorian legislation, the Bill be amended to provide that:
>
> i the police may review and revoke an impounding determination for a person, other than the alleged offender or a person involved in committing the offence, who will or may experience severe hardship due to the vehicle impoundment.
>
> ii in determining whether to revoke a determination based on hardship, regard must given to public safety and the public interest in preventing the use of a vehicle that is reasonably likely to be used for further driving offences.

Motion not supported.

Mr Howe moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Bill be amended to provide a defence to the offence of driving with THC in a person's system such that if:
>
> a) the defendant was, at the time of the alleged offence, under treatment by a medical practitioner and had taken the drug as part of that treatment; and
>
> b) the defendant had taken the drug in accordance with the directions of the medical practitioner.
>
> 3 for 1 abstained.

Question put and passed.

Mrs Carlson moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> The Chair's draft report cover the issues raised in the consideration of submissions/evidence and include the proposed amendments as discussed during the meeting.

Question put and passed.

National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Mrs Carlson moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Chair's draft report cover the issues raised in the consideration of submissions/evidence and include the proposed amendments as discussed during the meeting.

Question put and passed.

4. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 9.00 am, Monday 5 October 2026

Meeting closed at 3.33 pm.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

15th Assembly

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 53

9.00 am, Monday 5 October 2026
Litchfield Room

Present: Mrs Oly Carlson MLA, Chair, Member for Wanguri
Mr Clinton Howe MLA, Deputy Chair, Member for Drysdale
Justine Davis MLA, Member for Johnston
Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly
Mrs Laurie Zio MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Secretariat: Julia Knight, Committee Secretary
Katie Helme, Committee Secretary
Dr Will Dreyer, Senior Research Officer
Caelan Ikin, Administration/Research Officer

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Zio moved and Justine Davis seconded that:

> The Minutes of Meeting No. 52 of 22 September 2026 be confirmed.

Question put and passed.

2. BILL REFERRALS: CONSIDERATION OF CHAIR'S DRAFT REPORTS

(a) Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe Air) Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Young seconded that:

> The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Environment Legislation Amendment (Safe Air) Bill 2026,* as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 7 October 2026 pursuant to SO 200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

(b) National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (Serial 75)

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2026,* to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 7 October 2026 pursuant to SO 200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

(c) Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026

Mrs Zio moved and Mr Howe seconded that:

> That the Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026,* as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 7 October 2026 pursuant to SO 200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

(d) Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026 (Serial 77)

Mrs Carlson moved and Mrs Zio seconded that:

> The Committee adopt the Chair's draft report, *Inquiry into the Lands and Planning Legislation Amendment (Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2026,* as amended, to be tabled out of session with the Speaker on Wednesday 7 October 2026 pursuant to SO 200(4) for subsequent tabling in the Assembly on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

Question put and passed.

The Chair noted that any dissenting reports need to be provided to the secretariat by 12 noon, Tuesday 6 October 2026.

3. NEXT MEETING

Deliberative Meeting: 12.00 pm, Thursday 15 October 2026

Meeting closed at 9.28 am.

Mrs Oly Carlson MLA
Chair